

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9598

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3349

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: ARAFAT PLAN

1. BY SEPARATE CABLE, I'M SENDING AN ANALYSIS OF THE ARAFAT PLAN WHICH WAS REVEALED TO THE LEFT LAST NIGHT AND WHICH ARAFAT IS CARRYING TO DAMASCUS TODAY. THE ARAFAT PLAN RESEMBLES QUITE CLOSELY BROWN'S PERSONAL SUGGESTIONS AND I FEEL AS IF I'VE BEEN MUGGED.

2. WHAT WE SEE IS THE FINESSE OF ARAFAT. HE HAS STAYED AFLOAT ALL THESE YEARS BECAUSE HE IS A SUPERB POLITICAL STRATEGIST.

3. WE ARE WITNESSING A BIG SWING. FEW WEEKS AGO HE PICKED A SIDE, SUPPORTED IT WITH MEN AND MONEY, FOUGHT, RECOGNIZED HE COULDN'T WIN FIRST, BECAUSE OF GREATER RESISTANCE THAN EXPECTED AND, SECOND, SYRIAN OBJECTION AFTER IT WENT ON TOO LONG. NOW, REPEAT NOW, FROM PROTAGONIST HE TURNS HIMSELF INTO MEDIATOR. IT IS A CLEVER MOVE.

4. HIS TRIP TO DAMASCUS, AFTER ALL THE BOMBASTIC TALK OF RECENT DAYS BY BOTH THE LEFT AND THE PLO, IS NOT A RETREAT BUT A BASIC CHANGE IN STRATEGY, EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS SOMEWHAT LIKE CANASTA. A BOW TO ASAD

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AND THE EMERGENCE OF A PLO/SYRIAN/LEBANESE PLAN FOR THE

FUTURE WILL IN ARAFAT'S EYES: FIRST, PRESERVE HIM;
SECOND, SQUEEZE SAIQA; AND THIRD, GIVE HIM A BIG VOICE
IN THE FUTURE OF LEBANON.
BROWN

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NNN

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